CLAIMS

Sub A1

1. A method of displaying recently accessed television channels comprising the following steps:

determining whether a television channel has been recently selected by a user;

adding the television channel to a list of selected channels if the television channel was determined to be recently selected; and

generating a primary display screen having multiple small display screens, each small display screen corresponding to one of the selected channels.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises the step of monitoring whether the user selects a television channel according to a predetermined method.

3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the predetermined method comprises selecting the television channel for a predetermined length of time.

4. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the predetermined method comprises selecting the television channel from within one of the small display screens.

5. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the predetermined method comprises entering an identifier corresponding to the television channel directly into a device controlling a television tuner.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying the primary display screen on a television through a web browser program.

7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein one of the small display screens is active and corresponds to a currently selected television channel, the active small display screen being differentiated from the remaining small display screens.

8. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of enlarging the active small display screen to full-screen mode and removing the remaining small display screens.

9. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of applying a focus to the active small display screen.

10. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the following steps:

generating a highlight box to enclose the active small display screen; and

moving the highlight box from the active small display screen to a second small display screen to render active the second small display screen and to de-select the active small display screen.

Sub A2

11. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the generating step comprises the step of depressing an option button on a control unit to initiate generation of the primary display screen.

12. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of ordering the selected channels within the list in an order in which the selected channels were selected.

13. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the following steps:

displaying a live television signal from the television channel in the active small display screen;

changing to a second television channel within the active small display screen; and

displaying a live television broadcast signal from the second television channel in the active small display screen.

14. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the following steps:

displaying a live television broadcast signal from the television channel in the active small display screen; and

displaying a still image of a corresponding channel in the remaining small display screens.

15. A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the still image represents a last image captured on the corresponding channel when the channel was de-selected.

16. A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of periodically updating the still image.

17. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying still images captured from corresponding channels in at least one of the small display screens.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising the step of occasionally updating the still images in the small display screens.

19. A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising the step of updating the still images in the small display screens in response to activation of a button on a remote control unit.

Sub A3

20. A method comprising the following steps:

generating a primary display screen having multiple small display screens, each small display screen corresponding to a recently selected channel; and

applying a focus to one of the small display screens to designate the one small display screen as active and containing a currently selected television channel and to differentiate the active small display screen from remaining ones of the small display screens.

21. A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the step of enlarging the active small display screen to full-screen mode and removing the remaining small display screens.

22. A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the step of moving the focus from the active small display screen to a second small display screen to render active the second small display screen and to de-select the active small display screen.

Sub A4

23. A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the following steps:

displaying a live television broadcast signal from the television channel in the active small display screen; and

displaying still images of corresponding channels in the remaining small display screens.

24. A method as recited in claim 23, further comprising the step of occasionally updating the still images in the small display screens.

25. A method as recited in claim 23, further comprising the step of updating the still images in the small display screens in response to activation of a button on a remote control unit.

26. A method comprising the following steps:

generating a primary display screen having multiple small display screens, each small display screen corresponding to a recently selected channel; and

displaying still images captured from corresponding channels in the small display screens.

27. A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising the step of updating the still images in the small display screens.

28. A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising the step of displaying a live television broadcast signal in at least one of the small display screens.

29. A client system capable of receiving multiple television channels, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory having stored therein executable instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the following steps:

determining whether a television channel has been recently selected by a user;

adding the television channel to a list of selected channels if the television channel was determined to be recently selected; and

generating a primary display screen having multiple small display screens, each small display screen corresponding to one of the selected channels.

30. A client system as recited in claim 29, wherein the primary display screen comprises a screen image displayed through an interactive display environment including World Wide Web content.

31. A client system as recited in claim 29, wherein the primary display screen is a Hypertext Mark-up Language (HTML) object.

32. An Internet system, comprising:

at least one server system;

one or more of the client systems as recited in claim 29; and

a wide area network (WAN) interconnecting the server system and the one or more client systems.

33. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the following steps:

determining whether a television channel has been recently selected by a user;

adding the television channel to a list of selected channels if the television channel was determined to be recently selected; and

generating a primary display screen having multiple small display screens, each small display screen corresponding to one of the selected channels.

34. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the following steps:

generating a primary display screen having multiple small display screens, each small display screen corresponding to a recently selected channel; and

applying a focus to an active small display screen to designate the active small display screen as containing a currently selected television channel and to differentiate the active small display screen from remaining ones of the small display screens.

35. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the following steps:

generating a primary display screen having multiple small display screens, each small display screen corresponding to a recently selected channel; and

displaying still images captured from corresponding channels in the small display screens.

36. In a set-top box system capable of receiving and presenting both television and Web content on a television, a user interface executing on the set-top box system comprising a primary display screen having multiple small display screens, each small display screen corresponding to a channel recently selected by a user, the user interface also having a movable focus to designate one of the small display screens from remaining ones of the small display screens.